

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11460 01 OF 04 221412Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 HONG KONG 11460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR HK
SUBJECT: ARTICLE FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL

REF: (A) MATHEA FALCO LETTER OF JUNE 15 (B) HONG KONG 9513

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE REQUESTED FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL, PRECEDED BY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON CONSUL GENERAL THOMAS P. SHOESMITH. PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS FOLLOW BY POUCH.

2. BEGIN BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FOR CONSUL GENERAL THOMAS P. SHOESMITH: MR. SHOESMITH, BORN JANUARY 25, 1922 AND A NATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA, WAS GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA IN 1943, RECEIVING A B.S. IN EDUCATION. DURING HIS MILITARY SERVICE, 1943-48, HE RECEIVED JAPANESE AREA AND LANGUAGE TRAINING AT YALE AND MICHIGAN UNIVERSITIES AND SERVED FOR TWO YEARS (1946-48) ON THE STAFF OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS IN TOKYO AS A POLITICAL REPORTING OFFICER. AFTER THREE YEARS OF GRADUATE WORK AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY (M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DOCTORAL WORK IN POLITICAL SCIENCE), MR. SHOESMITH ENTERED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1951 IN THE OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH, JAPAN BRANCH. HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1955, AND WAS ASSIGNED IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE, HONG KONG, AS A CONSULAR OFFICER. HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT, AS A POLITICAL OFFICER, WAS IN SEOUL, KOREA (1958-1960). MR. SHOESMITH WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, TOKYO, 1960-1961, AFTER WHICH HE SERVED FOR TWO YEARS IN THE POLITICAL

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SECTION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. FROM 1963-1966, HE WAS AMERICAN CONSUL IN FUKUOKA.

MR. SHOESMITH RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1966 AND SERVED FIRST AS DEPUTY AND THEN AS COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC OF CHINA AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS UNTIL AUGUST

1971. IN 1971-1972, MR. SHOESMITH WAS A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOLLOWING WHICH, IN JULY 1972, HE WAS NAMED DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, TOKYO, SERVING IN THAT POSITION UNTIL AUGUST 1977. END BIO.

3. BEGIN TEXT: CHASING THE DRAGON: NARCOTICS IN HONG KONG. BACKGROUND AND DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM. HONG KONG HAS CEASED TO BE THE PUSHER OF THE ORIENT. THAI TRAWLERS NO LONGER SCUTTLE INTO LOCAL WATERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BRINGING OPIUM NOR DO SOPHISTICATED LABORATORIES MANUFACTURE NUMBER 4 HEROIN FOR THE ADDICTS OF NORTH AMERICA. BUT TO SAY THAT HONG KONG HAS DECLINED AS A SOURCE AND TRANSHIPMENT POINT FOR HEROIN IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE COLONY HAS CEASED TO HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM OF ITS OWN. NOR IS IT POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT NO ROLE IS PLAYED BY HONG KONG'S DRUG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE WORLD DRUG MARKET, WHICH INVOLVES ETHNIC CHINESE THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EUROPE.

-- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LARGE-SCALE LABORATORIES FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF HEROIN IN HONG KONG WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE FLIGHT OF ILLEGAL DRUG ENTREPRENEURS, CHEMISTS AND DISTRIBUTORS FROM SHANGHAI IN 1949 AT THE TIME OF THE ACCESSION TO POWER OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE DRUG GROUPS WHO CAME TO HONG KONG WERE FOR THE MOST PART SPEAKERS OF THE CHIU CHAO DIALECT WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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CLOSE CONNECTIONS TO THE CHIU CHAO SPEAKING CHINESE POPULATION OF THAILAND. THE CLAN-LIKE NATURE OF THESE RELATIONS MADE PENETRATION EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT.

-- THE SHAPE OF HONG KONG'S DRUG PROBLEM, IRONICALLY, IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN THE PAST. THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STEPS TAKEN BY THE HONG KONG POLICE IN THE MID-1950'S TO SUPPRESS OPIUM CREATED AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE MARKET OF OPIUM SMOKERS WHO HAD CONVERTED TO HEROIN, DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF OPIUM. WHEREAS THE ADDICT POPULATION IN THE 1950'S WAS OVERWHELMINGLY ADDICTED TO OPIUM, THE RATIO OF HEROIN TO OPIUM ADDICTS TODAY IS APPROXIMATELY NINE TO ONE.

-- ESTAMATES OF THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS VARY CONSIDERABLY HOWEVER, FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE FIGURE OF 100,000 WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS A CONVENIENT APPROXIMATION. SOME HONG KONG OFFICIALS NOW TEND TO BELIEVE THAT 100,000 IS TOO HIGH AND THAT THE FIGURE MAY BE AS LOW AS 35,000-50,000. THE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING AN ACCURATE FIGURE LIES IN THE HIDDEN CHARACTER OF THE ADDICT POPULATION AND DUPLICATION OF RECORDS AMONG VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT AGENCIES. A NEW COMPUTERIZED CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS WHICH IS JUST COMING INTO

OPERATION WILL ELIMINATE MOST OF THE DUPLICATION AND
LEAD TO A MORE ACCURATE READING OF THE LOCAL POPULATION.
THE CENTRAL REGISTRY, WHICH IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE
NATIONWL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE (NIDA), IS MODELED ON
THE NEW YORK CITY REGISTRY. A BETTER GRASP OF NUMBERS
AND THE OCCUPATIONAL AND GEORGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF
ADDICTS WILL LEAD TO MORE EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS
FOR BOTH TREATMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.
SHOESMITH

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 4 HONG KONG 11460

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: ARTICLE FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL

REF: (A) MATHEA FALCO LETTER OF JUNE 15 (B) HONG KONG 9513

-- IN CONTRAST WITH THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG HAS
VERY LITTLE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE OTHER THAN HEROIN
AND OPIUM. MARIJUANA AND BARBITURATES ARE OCCASIONALLY
FOUND AMONG THE SMALL EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN POPULATION.
VALIUM, WHICH HAS BEEN USED BY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ON
LEAVE, NOW REQUIRES A PRESCRIPTION FOR PURCHASE. PREVIOUSLY,
VALIUM COULD BE BOUGHT OFF THE SHELF LIKE ASPIRIN.
AMPHETAMINES, ALTHOUGH SELDOM USED IN HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN
PLACED IN THE DANGEROUS DRUG CATEGORY IN ORDER TO CONTROL
THE MANUFACTURE AND EXPORT OF THE DRUG TO NEARBY
COUNTRIES WHERE AMPHETAMINES ARE WIDELY USED. VERY
RECENTLY, HONG KONG POLICE SEIZED A LABORATORY IN HONG
KONG FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF AMPHETAMINES FOR EXPORT TO
JAPAN. BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE
BLOTTER AND TREATMENT CENTER ADMISSIONS, THE FOLLOWING PER-
CENTAGES ARE BELIEVED TO EXIST FOR THE LOCAL ADDICT POPU-
LATION: 90 PERCENT HEROIN, 5 PERCENT OPIUM, 3 PERCENT OTHER
DRUGS, INCLUDING MORPHINE, METHADONE, AMPHETAMINES, BARBI-

TURATES, CODEINE, AND 2 PERCENT UNKNOWN. THESE PERCENT-
AGES REPRESENT A DRAMATIC SHIFT FROM DECEMBER 1974 WHEN THE
LOCAL ADDICT WAS APPROXIMATELY EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN
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HEROIN AND OPIUM USERS.

-- THE HEROIN USED IN HONG KONG IS NO. 3, WHICH IS
GRANULAR IN FORM, LIGHT BROWN OR GRAY IN COLOR AND CONTAINS
SEVERAL DISTINCTIVE ADDITIVES, OF WHICH CAFFEINE IS THE
MAJOR CONSTITUENT. THESE ADDITIVES, ALSO INCLUDING
STRYCHNINE, QUININE HYDROCHLORIDE AND SCOPOLAMINE
HYDROBROMIDE, ARE THOUGHT TO IMBUE A DISTINCTIVE FLAVOR
TO THE HEROIN AND TO HAVE ORIGINATED IN THE MANUFACTURING
PROCESS OF HEROIN PILLS IN THE 1940'S. THE PURITY OF
NO. 3 HEROIN IS NORMALLY ABOUT 30 PERCENT, ALTHOUGH IN
TIMES OF SHORTAGES IT IS SOMETIMES DILUTED TO ABOUT 20
PERCENT. THE PURITY OF NO. 4 HEROIN FOUND ON THE STREETS
OF AMERICA IS LIKELY TO BE ABOUT 7-8 PERCENT. HEROIN
CONSUMED IN HONG KONG IS NORMALLY SMOKED BY A METHOD
PECULIAR TO CHINESE ADDICTS. A FEW GRAINS OF HEROIN ARE
PLACED ON TINFOIL, WHICH IS HEATED OVER A CANDLE. THE
RESULTING SMOKE IS EITHER INHALED THROUGH A MATCHBOX
COVER ("PLAYING THE MOUTH ORGAN") OR THROUGH A PAPER
TUBE ("CHASING THE DRAGON"). HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF
ADDICTS INJECTING HEROIN HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS
WITH THE INCREASE IN PRICE, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER INVOLVED
IN MAINLINGING REMAINS QUITE SMALL.

11 THE RELATIVE PURITY OF THE DRUG, AS WELL AS THE
ENTRENCHED TRADITIONS OF OPIUM SMOKING, FREE THE LOCAL
HEROIN USER FROM ONE OF THE SCOURAGES OF THE AMERICAN
ADDICT, THE HEPATITIS ACCOMPANYING DIRTY NEEDLES.
MOREOVER, UNLIKE HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPART, THE OVER-
WHELMING MAJORITY OF HONG KONG'S ADDICTS ARE EMPLOYED.
NEVERTHELESS, THE DRUG'S DEBILITATING EFFECT LEADS TO
THE SAME CONDITIONS OF POOR HEALTH AND MALNUTRITION
FOUND IN THE WEST.

-- THE TYPICAL PROFILE OF A HONG KONG DRUG ADDICT IS
OF "AN ADULT MALE OVER 21, IN THE LOWER INCOME GROUP,
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GENERALLY EMPLOYED AS AN UNSKILLED OR SEMI-SKILLED
LABORER, OR FACTORY PROCESS WORKER, WITH NOT MORE THAN
FIVE YEARS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, LIVING IN OVERCROWDED
ACCOMMODATION AND SINGLE, OR IF MARRIED, USUALLY SEPARATED
FROM HIS FAMILY." (HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT 1976).

-- AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMPLEX PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-

ECONOMIC CAUSES OF DRUG ADDICTION IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS ARTICLE, BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE AMELIORATING EFFECT ON THE DRUG PROBLEM OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COLONY, AND HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO THIS TASK THROUGH EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PUBLIC HOUSING.

TRAFFICKING AND ENFORCEMENT. BECAUSE NO OPIUM POPPIES GROW IN THE COLONY OF HONG KONG, ALL OPIATES MUST BE IMPORTED. THE GREATEST BULK OF THESE IMPORTS COME FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE. LOCAL GEOGRAPHY INSURES THAT THESE IMPORTS COME BY SEA OR AIR. LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES ARE THUS FOCUSED HEAVILY ON INTERDICTING THE SEA AND AIR ROUTES BETWEEN THAILAND AND HONG KONG, A TASK WHICH REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE COORDINATION AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE REGION. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG AND ITS CONSTITUENT DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OFFICE, PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS AND IMPORTANCE ON MAINTAINING A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN FIGHTING THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE.
SHOESMITH

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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 4 HONG KONG 11460

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: ARTICLE FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL

REF: (A) MATHEA FALCO LETTER OF JUNE 15 (B) HONG KONG 9513

-- THE PRINCIPAL METHOD OF SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO HONG KONG FROM 1966 ONWARD WAS BY USING THAI TRAWLERS TO BRING IN A TON OR MORE AT A TIME. THIS METHOD OF OPERATION REQUIRED BOTH AN ABILITY TO COMMIT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE INITIAL INVESTMENT AND THE SOLVENCY TO SUFFER

THE LARGE LOSSES WHICH SEIZURE OF A SHIPMENT WOULD ENTAIL. THIS STYLE WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE AT THAT TIME THE DRUG BUSINESS WAS MONOPOLIZED BY SEVERAL LARGE SYNDICATES WITH EXTENSIV FINANCIAL RESOURCES. DURING THE YEAR 1974-75 FOUR SUCH SHIPMENTS WERE SEIZED BY HONG KONG POLICE AND ANOTHER TWO WERE UNABLE TO DELIVER THEIR CARGO. THESE SETBACKS PLACED A SEVERE STRAIN ON THE RESOURCES OF THE SYNDICATES, AND IN COMBINATION WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MAJOR SYNDICATES, HAS RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF OPERATION OF THE DRUG SMUGGLERS.

-- BREAKING UP THE LARGE SYNDICATES, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS SMASHED IN AUGUST OF 1977, WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS BY THE NARCOTICS BUREAU EXTENDING OVER SEVERAL YEARS AND BY THE APPLICATION OF CONSPIRACY LAWS. USE OF THE CONSPIRACY LAWS HAS ENABLED HONG KONG AUTHORITIES TO IMMOBILIZE OR AT LEAST TO DISRUPT THE FINANCIERS

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OR SYNDICATE HEADS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY UNTOUCHABLE BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN PHYSICALLY ENGAGED IN DRUG TRANSFERS. MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENTS METED OUT BY THE COURTS HAVE INDUCED SOME TRAFFICKERS TO CURTAIL LOCAL OPERATIONS OR TO INCREASE THEIR PRECAUTIONARY SECURITY MEASURES, WHICH INFLATES THE PRICE OF HEROIN. NUMEROUS ARRESTS IN EUROPE OF CHINESE COURIERS ORIGINATING FROM HONG KONG HAVE CAUSED SYNDICATES TO RECRUIT COURIERS FROM OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS AND TO SHIP DRUGS TO EUROPE VIA OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

-- EXAMINATION OF CASE HISTROEIS LEADS TO A PROFILE TYPIFIED BY THE WU YA-PIEN GROUP. ALTHOUGH THIS GROUP ATYPICALLY DID EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES, ITS ORGANIZATION WAS FAIRLY TYPICAL. JOSEPH WU, AKA WU YA-PIEN, USING A FRONT AS DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL TRAVEL SERVICE AND GOOD FRIEND FIANANCE COMPANY WAS ENGAGED IN FORGED PASSPORTS AND VISAS, COUNTERFEIT U.S. CURRENCY AND NARCOTICS. THE ORGANIZATION WAS RUN BY TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS WHO ORGANIZED THE RECRUITMENT OF COURIERS FOR PICK-UP, MANUFACTURE FALSE-BOTTOM SUITCASES, CONTACTS WITH SOURCES IN THAILAND, AND RECRUITMENT OF COURIERS OF TAIWAN, EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. EACH PHASE OF THE ABOVE WAS INDEPENDENT OF ALL OTHER PHASES, AND ONLY THE LIEUTENANT HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOTAL ORGANIZATION. IN 1976 AND 1978 DEA WAS ABLE TO ARREST TWO OF THE LIEUTENANTS AND ONE COURIER AS THEY DELIVERED TO UNDERCOVER AGENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. A PRINCIPAL IN HONG KONG WAS ALSO ARRESTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

-- DEMAND FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION HAS INCREASED RETAIL HEROIN PRICES IN HONG KONG WHILE STRONG ENFORCEMENT PRESURES HAVE MULTIPLIED THE RISKS OF SMUGGLING MORPHINE OR OPIUM INTO HONG KONG AND THEN SMUGGLING HEROIN OUT. IT

IS THUS AT PRESENT MORE RATIONAL FOR DRUG ORGANIZATIONS TO
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MANUFACTURE HEROIN IN HONG KONG SOLELY FOR THE LOCAL
MARKET, RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO TRANSHIP TO EUROPE, THE
UNITED STATES OR CANADA. DESPITE THESE CHANGES, HOWEVER,
THE NETWORK OF ETHNIC CHINESE DRUG FINANCIERS AND ENTREPRE-
NEURS EXTENDING ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA, EUROPE AND NORTH
AMERICAN IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE HONG KONG CHINESE IN THEIR
NUMBER, AS WELL AS THAIS, MALAYS AND SINGAPOREANS.

-- IDENTIFYING PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS SYNDICATE HEADS AND
ANALYZING THEIR OPERATIONS TAKE HIGH PRIORITY IN HONG
KONG GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIVE WORK. NEVERTHELESS, THIS
INVESTIGATION IS EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING BECAUSE THE CHIU
CHAO CLANS OFTEN CITED AS DOMINATING ASIAN NARCOTICS TRADE
ARE DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE. SOME OBSERVERS SPECULATE
THAT IN CASES INVOLVING THE FINANCING OF SOME INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS BY LOCAL SYNDICATES NO CURRENCY EXCHANGE
OCCURS -- JUST PAPER TRANSACTIONS IN WHICH THE PARTIES
SIMPLY ADJUST THEIR LEDGER BALANCES TO REFLECT A SCALE.
MOREOVER, THE LABYRINTHINE WAYS IN WHICH THE CHIU CHAO
CLANS MASK THESE TRANSACTIONS ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO
UNRAVEL.

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UNCLAS SECTION 4 OF 4 HONG KONG 11460

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-- THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING ARE THE NARCOTICS BUREAU OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE. THE NARCOTICS BUREAU CONCENTRATES ON LONG TERM INVESTIGATION OF SYNDICATES, WHILE CUSTOMS MAINTAINS SURVEILLANCE AGAINST IMPORTATION OF DRUGS THROUGH THE SEA AND AIRPORT. THIS TWO-PRONGED ATTACK ON TRAFFICKERS RESULTS IN HEALTHY COMPETITION TO SMASH THE DRUG TRADE. THE ROLE OF DEA IN THE HONG KONG PICUTE IS TO MAINTAIN THE FREE FLOW OF INTELLIGENCE AMONG THE VARIOUS LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, MONITOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING PATTERNS AND IDENTIFY SPECIFIC GROUPS DISTRIBUTING DRUGS TO EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO RECRUIT AND MAINTAIN INFORMATION SOURCES.

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR THE COLONY'S ADDICTS. THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE DECLINE IN CONVICTIONS FOR MINOR DRUG OFFENCES (SMOKING AND POSSESSION OF PARAPHERNALIA OR SMALL QUANTITIES) FROM 16,200 IN 1974 TO 6,683 IN 1977. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TREATMENT FACILITIES HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DECLINE.

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-- THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND ITS ABLE AND DEDICATED COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR PETER E I LEE, IS TO PROVIDE VARIOUS TYPES OF TREATMENT FOR THE VARYING NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS. LACKING A SINGLE MAGIC CURE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE APPLICATION OF SEVERAL MODES OF TREATMENT, NOT ONLY MEETS THE VARYING NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS, BUT ALSO SERVES TO MAINTAIN HOPE IN THE ADDICT WHO HAS FAILED IN ONE OR ANOTHER METHOD OF TREATMENT. AMONG THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF TREATMENT UTILIZED IN HONG KONG ARE OUT-PATIENT METHADONE DE-TOXIFICATION, OUT-PATIENT METHADONE MAINTENANCE, COMPULSORY TREATMENT FOR VONCVICTED CRIMINALS, VOLUNTARY IN-PATIENT AND AFTER-CARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GROUP OF FORMER ADDICTS MODELED ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, AND ACUPUNCTURE AND ELECTRO-STIMULATION.

--THERE ARE AT PRESENT 21 METHADONE TREATMENT CENTERS STRATEGICALLY PLACED SO THAT NO ADDICT IS MORE THAN A FEW BLOCKS FROM A CENTER. MOST REMAIN OPEN DURING THE EVENING. IN SEPTEMBER 1977 THERE WERE 16,500 ADDICTS RECEIVING SOME FORM OF TREATMENT, REHABILITATION OR AFTER-CARE CONTRASTED WITH ONLY ABOUT 6,000 FOUR YEARS AGO. MOST CENTERS REMAIN FLEXIBLE IN REGARD TO DE-TOXIFICATION (GRADUAL REDUCATION OF DOSAGE OVER 6-8 WEEKS) AND MAINTENANCE (INDEFINITE MAINTENANCE ON METHADONE AS A HEROIN SUBSTITUTE) BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT PATIENTS ENTERED IN ONE OR THE OTHER PROGRAM OFTEN CHANGE THEIR MINDS. OF SPECIAL INTEREST

ARE THE PROGRAMS RUN BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS (SARDA) AND THE EXPERIMENTAL ACUPUNCTURE ELECTRO-STIMULATION PROGRAM. SARDO PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO VOLUNTTRAILY WISH TO END THEIR DRUG DEPENDENCE. IN DOING SO SARDA SUPPLIES IN-PATIENT COUNSELING AND TREATMENT, FOLLOWED BY HALF-WAY HOUSE AND AFTER-CARE COUNSELING, AND EVENTUALLY MEMBERSHIP IN AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WHICH IS ACTIVE IN PUBLIC ANTI-DRUG WORK.
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THE ACUPUNCTURE ELECTRO-STIMULATION PROGRAM SHOWS PROMISE OF MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL TREATMENT PICTURE. ACUPUNCTURE IS ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IN A CHINESE SOCIETY BECAUSE OF CULTURAL RECEPTIVITY TO THIS FORM OF TREATMENT.

-- IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS EXTENSIVE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS TO PREVENTIVELY EDUCATE THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

-- EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MULTI-FACETED CAMPAIGN IS THE DECLINE IN THE PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE ADMITTED TO TREATMENT. THE PROPORTION OF THOSE ADMITTED UNDER AGE 19 INTO SARDA'S SHEK KWU CHAU CENTER DROPPED FROM 12.5 PERCENT IN 1969 TO 1.5 PERCENT IN 1977, WHILE THE PERCENTAGE OF INMATES UNDER 21 OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT TREATMENT CENTERS DELCINED FROM 25.4 PERCENT TO 5.2 PERCENT IN THE SAME PERIOD.

NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY. DESPITE THE VERY ENCOURAGING INROADS MADE INTO THE DRUG PROBLEM IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS LITTLE ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY. PERIODIC ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE THE THAI TRAWLER TRAFFIC HAVE BEEN NOTED, WHILE A RECENT UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF LABORATORIES SEIZED (SIX IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1978 VERSUS ONLY ONE IN 1977) REVEALS THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF RETURN TO AN EXPORT HEROIN ECONOMY. MOREOVER, RECENT ARRESTS OF PAKISTANIS BRINGING MIDDLE EASTERN MORPHINE INTO THE COLONY HIGHLIGHT THE EVER-SHIFTING CURRENTS IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN ENFORCEMENT AND SMUGGLING ORGANIZATIONS.

-- IN LIGHT OF THE PROBLEMS AND TRENDS CUTTING ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES, IT IS CLEAR THAT ONLY THROUGH THE CLOSEST COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES CAN THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM BE SUPPRESSED AND HOPEFULLY ONE DAY BE ERADICATED. END TEXT.
SHOESMITH

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Review Date: 10 may 2005
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARTICLE FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL
TAGS: SNAR, HK
To: STATE
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